(c) to (e) Government of India has a long term policy of establishing a number of new towns to act as statellites of metropolitan cities each with a population of 0.5 million to 1 million so as to decongest the metropolitan cities. Each such town will have the necessary medical, educational, transportation and recreational facilities for its population. On account of dearth of funds, this new town development programme has not yet attained the expected momentum.

Single Room Housing in metro cities

†1222. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even a single-room house for living is not available to 44 per cent population in Metros at present;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme for future, keeping in view the population growth in Metros so that people may get at least a single-room house to live; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) As per the 1991 Census data, there are 1,36,47,476 households in the 23 Metros in the country. Out of this, only 6950 household are reported not to have a single room housing, it therefore, may be not correct to say that 44% of the population does not have access to even a single room house.

(b) and (c) Housing being a State subject, this Ministry does not have a separate programme for meeting the housing requirements exclusively for the metros. However, the Two Million Housing Programme initiated in 1998-99 covers the metros also. Under this programme, a target has been fixed for construction of 7 lakh additional housing units in urban areas, including metros.

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†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.